C²UExpo 2015 Call for Abstracts and Presentations

C²UExpo (Community, College, University-Exposition), a bi-annual 3-day conference, showcases the best practices in community-campus partnerships worldwide and attracts presentations from community-campus partnerships forged around social, cultural, health, environment, and economic issues that exist at all levels of society. The conference attracts upwards of 400 attendees from all parts of the world, providing conference presenters with an opportunity to significantly expand their professional networks while at the same time allowing them to encounter new and innovative work being done through various types of collaborations.

‘Citizen Solutions. Better World.’ C²UExpo will focus on the tangible solutions for social justice, economic opportunity, and environmental sustainability being generated and implemented by community-campus partnerships. Some highlights for this year’s Expo include:

- How-to sessions as well as an issues-based open space geared toward mobilizing policy action.
- Pre-conference workshops hosted by Community-Based Research Canada, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH), the Canadian Alliance for Community Service-Learning (CACSL) and Volunteer Canada, and the Institute for Community Engaged Scholarship (ICES).
- Pre-and post-conference web conversations.

For more information on C²UExpo 2015, please visit our website: http://cuexpo2015.ca/

Key Dates and Deadlines

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 20, 2014</td>
<td>Call for proposals, abstracts, and poster presentations opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 28, 2014</td>
<td>Deadline for proposals, abstracts, and poster presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 4, 2015</td>
<td>Notice of acceptance</td>
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<td>March 2, 2015</td>
<td>Conference registration opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5, 2015</td>
<td>Early bird registration deadline</td>
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<td>May 26 – 29, 2015</td>
<td>Conference</td>
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Submission:

1. Read through the submission information on our website (http://cuexpo2015.ca/abstract-submission/submission-information/)
2. Draft your submission keeping this information in mind.
3. Enter your submission via the online form: http://cuexpo2015.ca/abstract-submission/submit-now/
   
   **Note**: Saving and returning to the form will not be available, so you will need to have all your submission information already prepared.
4. You will receive a confirmation email once you have submitted your abstract. Be sure to keep this email for your records.
5. Applicants will be notified of acceptance status via email by the beginning of February 2015.
Selection Process:
All submissions will be reviewed by the C²UExpo 2015 Abstract and Presentations Review Committee whose members will make final selections based on topic, subject matter, and fit into the overall program. Preference will be given to submissions that not only demonstrate innovation and ‘next steps’ around community-campus engagement, but that also include both academic and community presenters. We strongly encourage presentations using diverse presentation methods, including, but not limited to oral presentations, storytelling, world cafés, panels, round tables, sharing circles, theatrical performances, art installations, posters, and other modes. In planning the submission, we also encourage presenters to consider the questions: “How does your community-campus partnership make a difference?” and “In what ways can your project/work be used by others?” Please visit our website for more information.

*NEW* Real-Time Workshop Option
Community-campus partnerships address issues affecting community members through the power of collaboration. Do you have a particular challenge your group is working on that could use some international input from academics, professionals, and citizens involved in similar work? C²UExpo invites proposals from groups interested in doing real time problem solving at the 2015 conference. In a facilitated session (external facilitators available upon request), your ‘proposal group’ will present your challenge, and interact with interested conference participants as they brainstorm ideas to encourage your thinking and provide intensive, but actionable advice.

You may design your own session or you may choose to follow the format suggested on our website under Types of Sessions. Either way, you will be asked on the abstract submission form to outline the problem you would like addressed and the structure you intend to use to engage participants in working through the issue to action steps.

Conference Objectives
The theme of C²UExpo 2015 is Citizen-Driven Policy: Strengthening Community Engagement for a Better World. Through this theme we hope to:

- Provide participants with a unique opportunity to be inspired and energized by the successes of community-campus partnerships, community based research, and community service-learning;
- Build connections and share ideas through meaningful dialogue;
- Work in solidarity to build on the cumulative legacy of the Expo’s networks, partnerships and projects throughout Canada and the world;
- Build momentum for policy solutions that help civil society organizations navigate the current environment, and more effectively assert their interests through policy development and engagement; and
- Strengthen the growing national movement to deepen community-campus engagement as universities and colleges seek to enhance their potential to contribute to the development of Canada and the public good.
What Does ‘Policy’ Mean for YOU?
If you are involved in community-campus partnerships—at the local, regional, or national level—you are almost certainly involved in some aspect of the policy process. But how can partnerships be more effective in converting knowledge into policy that serves the majority of citizens? C²UExpo 2015 provides a unique opportunity to build this capacity.

Policy is too often seen as an abstract task produced by elites in a capital city to maintain privilege and the status quo. We disagree. For us, policy is a powerful tool of democracy and accountability. It is a process that should be citizen-driven. And, when it is, it produces remarkable results.

Fundamentally, public policy is aimed at serving the public interest. It is the expression of our collective responsibility to one another. It is what our public institutions are expected to do—or should do.

Community-campus partnerships can be powerful tools for holding governments accountable towards formulating and implementing policies that address the pressing needs of the majority of citizens, especially the most marginalized among us. These partnerships can also be dynamic idea incubators—sites of research and development close to the ground that create, test and refine innovative solutions to the challenges we face every day in the economy, society, and the environment. By generating, testing, refining, and replicating policy experiments through initiatives, tools, models, projects, and programs designed to meet a need or right a wrong—first on a small scale, and then on a larger scale—we are working to create better communities.

Unemployment, inequality, homelessness, food insecurity, pollution, domestic violence, discrimination, refugee illness, loss of language and culture—the list of issues facing our communities seems to grow daily.

Yet we now have the networks, movements, and technologies to accelerate the gestation and rollout of solutions. This is evident in some examples of policy innovations produced through community-campus engagement:

- a pension fund for social economy organizations
- a model for deep green residential and commercial development
- design of a national student meal program
- revitalized Aboriginal language programs that renew local heritage
- living wage policies that municipalities, universities and hospitals are adopting
- demonstration of new counselling methods to better serve refugees coping with mental illness
- a full-fledged pan-Canadian policy to fight homelessness

Citizen-driven policy rooted in partnerships and the actionable evidence they produce can help us construct positive futures for communities, nations, and the world. These partnerships are already producing innovative solutions to critical needs. It’s time to deepen and accelerate this important work. Coming at a pivotal political moment in Canada, C²UExpo 2015 can power this effort forward. We invite you to join us.
Conference Partners
We are pleased to count among our partners:
Carleton University
Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement (CFICE)
Community-Based Research Canada (CBRC)
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH)
Canadian Alliance for Community Service-Learning (CACSL)
Algonquin College
Institute for Community Engaged Scholarship (ICES)
UNESCO Chair at University of Victoria
Volunteer Canada
The Centre for Community Based Research (CCBR)
Service aux collectivités, Université du Québec à Montréal

Contact Us
For questions related to C²UExpo 2015, please contact:

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